

HEAD OF THEIR CLASS

Upstate Medical University will honor six revered teachers by naming classrooms in the new Academic Building in their honor. The classrooms recognize these individuals for their ability to communicate their great knowledge and technical skills, the ability to develop a personal rapport with students and colleagues and for serving as exceptional role models.

While these classrooms are a fitting tribute that will last for years to come, the real legacy of these teachers is all of you.

You are invited to honor these outstanding individuals by contributing to their classroom naming campaigns.

THE HONOREES ARE . . .



MAXWELL M. MOZELL, PHD



Maxwell M. Mozell, PhD, has forged a 44-year career at Upstate reflecting the academic ideal of research, teaching, and administration. As a faculty member in the College of Medicine, he designed the neuroscience course, one of Upstate's first interdepartmentally taught courses, and coordinated it from 1969 until 1990. He served as associate dean for academic program development from 1971 to 1976, and for the last 13 years, has been dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

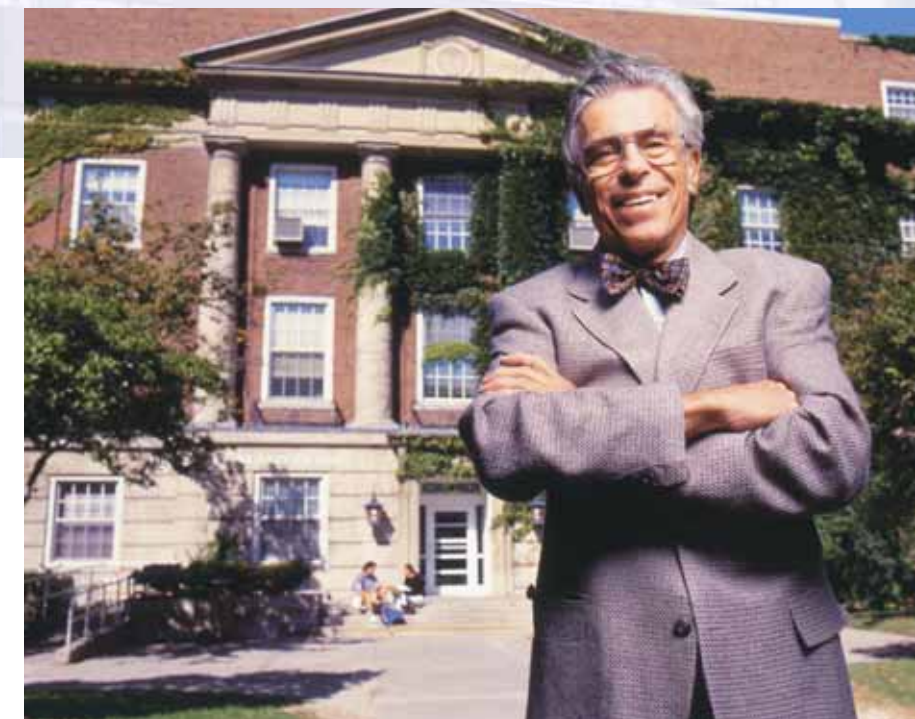
As dean, Dr. Mozell led the design of a new interdisciplinary core curriculum as well as the creation of a unified interdepartmental admissions committee.

As an investigator, Mozell has made significant contributions to the growth and development of chemosensory research. He spearheaded establishment of a Clinical Olfactory Research Center at Upstate, one of only five at the time funded by the National Institutes of Health, and developed the larynx bypass device, which enables laryngectomized patients to experience odor again through their noses. He is founder and was the first executive chairperson for the Association of Chemoreception Science.

As an educator, Mozell provided a foundation for innumerable medical students and scientists through the neuroscience course and others.

"Thirty-four years ago, Dr. Mozell conducted a trial to see if scientifically well-educated high school students could handle medical school material without college-level sciences," recalls Mark Erlebacher, MD '79. "I was one of 11 high school students who took renal physiology in 1971 with the medical school class taking the same course. The trial was a success—at least it was for me as I returned a few years later to repeat the course as a real medical student."

Through the years, he has been instrumental in directing and training graduate students at the forefront of chemosensory research. He's recently begun teaching a course in grant writing to graduate students. Last fall, he was named a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor.



"He has a zeal for science. You can always 'talk shop' with him because he loves it," say Jake Dubroff, an MD-PhD student. "And if a student has a problem he always helps you figure out a creative solution."

Says Mozell, "I learn just as much from students as they learn from me."



Mark Erlebacher, MD '79

FREDERICK B. PARKER, MD



Frederick B. Parker, MD, joined Upstate in 1971. A cardiac surgeon, Dr. Parker was chief of cardiopulmonary surgery from 1977 until 1993. He became chairman of the Department of Surgery in 1990, until his retirement in 2001.

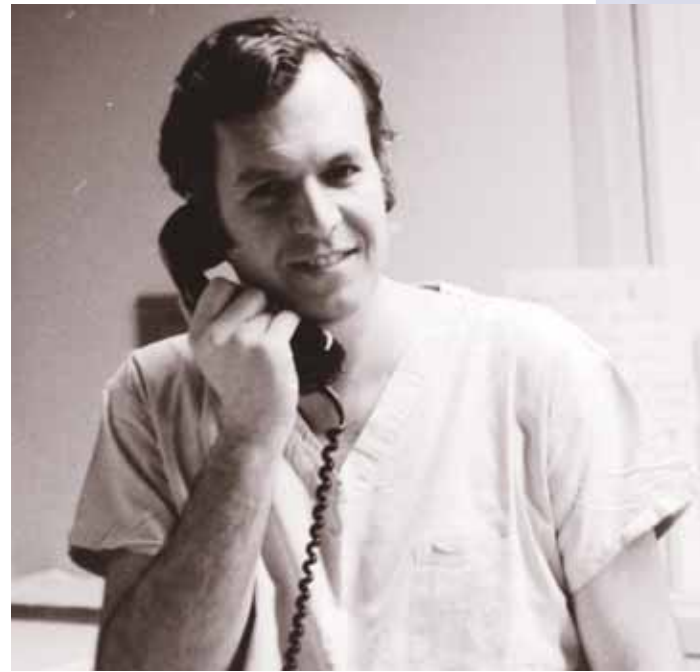
A pioneer in the fledgling specialty of cardiac surgery, Parker was among the first generation of cardiac surgeons who built the specialty and was instrumental in training those who followed.

"Those of us in the field owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude," says Charles J. Lutz, MD '93. "He was and is a valuable mentor."

A surgeon with a heavy operating schedule, Parker frequently taught students and residents in the operating room. "They learned by observing and assisting," he says. "There was a new challenge almost every single day and I enjoyed having the students and residents participate in those challenges."



Jake Dubroff



of science,” says Richard Cantor, MD '76, HS '79. “Even though he must have taught this stuff over and over he had a true zeal for teaching it. And whatever he taught you stuck forever.”

Former students well-remember “Rohnerisms,” his humorous and clever gimmicks for helping students memorize material.

“There is an impossible amount of factual material to be learned in medical school,” says Rohner. “I tried to teach pathology as the basis for medical practice and the people who wanted to be medical practitioners responded. I went by the rule that any method of packaging the material in a digestible and retainable form was fair. Some of the more delicate souls occasionally objected to a few of my packages.”

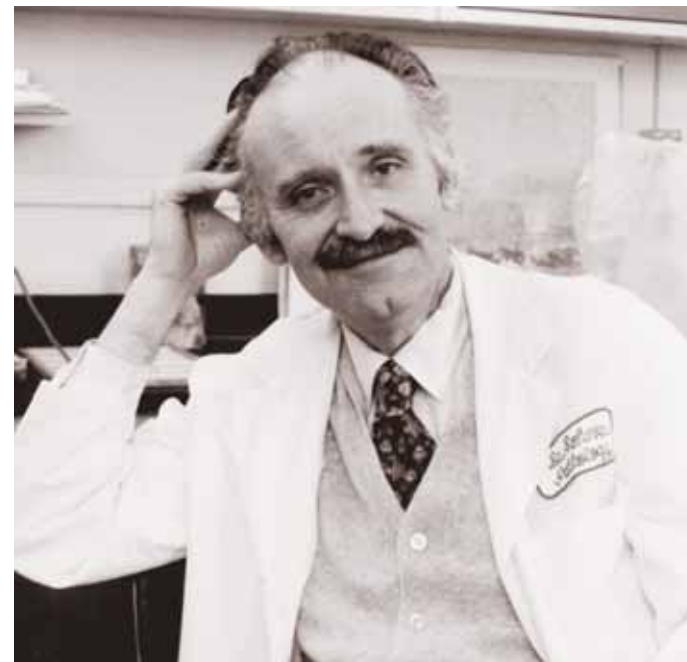
But not many. “We filled the auditorium to hear him in those wonderful clinical-pathologic conferences,” recalls former student Gustave Davis, MD '63. “In addition, he was certainly a friend and mentor to us scared young students.”



Richard Cantor, MD '76, HS '79



Gustave Davis, MD '63



Charles J. Lutz, MD '93



Leslie Kohman, MD, HS '85

As an educator, “Dr. Parker always kept the medical students and residents in the front of his consciousness and made sure we got the experience we needed,” says Leslie Kohman, MD, HS '85. “And he was always there to help anybody out of trouble at any level—medical student, resident, or attending. If you needed him, he would come down and help you solve your problem.”

Parker says the opportunity to work with students and residents was what attracted him to a career in academic medicine. “Seeing young people mature, become good surgeons, and go on to become leaders in medicine was something of which I am very proud.”

Says Parker, “I always truly enjoyed my work. If you enjoy what you do, it makes teaching others much easier and more rewarding.”

ROBERT F. ROHNER, MD '52, HS '56



Robert F. Rohner, MD '52, HS '56, was a member of the Department of Pathology for more than 40 years, helping thousands of Upstate Medical University students develop the skills to diagnose and treat disease, as well as become thoughtful and caring physicians.

Dr. Rohner earned a reputation as an extraordinary teacher with a unique ability to personally connect with his students. “He made you want to do well for the sake



Upstate course to use computer-based self-assessment modules to help students learn course material and review for the National Boards.

Spring-Mills spent 20 years conducting research related to development of the male reproductive tract, prostate cancer, development of the breast, and breast cancer. She is co-editor of three textbooks on andrology, served on the executive committee of the first Pan American Congress of Andrology, was chairperson of the Breast Cancer Working Group for the National Cancer Institute from 1984 to 1987, and a member of the educational policies committee of the American Association of Anatomists.

“I’ve always thought that the nice thing about an academic setting was the ability to pursue a research career while sharing your knowledge with students,”

says Spring-Mills, the first woman to earn tenure from the Upstate Department of Anatomy.

By all accounts, she’s a great teacher. “She has an amazing ability to present information to students in a simple, clear manner that emphasizes the important concepts, but also presents the whole story so that students can follow areas of their interest in greater depth,” says Dennis Stelzner, PhD, professor and interim chair of the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology.

Generous with her time, Spring-Mills has tutored students in English as a second language, served as faculty advisor for several student organizations, and mentored countless students.

“For me and my three siblings, Dr. Spring-Mills epitomized the very best of what a teacher should be—intelligent, patient and kind, with a quiet integrity,” says Ramsay S. Farah, MD '95. “When we reminisce on our medical school days, she stands out as a teacher that made a great difference inside and outside of the lecture hall.”

Spring-Mills says that medical students are unusually motivated. “I’ve always had the attitude that if a student wanted to learn, I’d be available. I’ve never had a bad day teaching.”

As a result, Dr. Rohner received the Philip B. Armstrong Award—awarded by students to the basic science teacher who most influenced their lives—at least 18 times, had countless yearbooks dedicated to him, and was asked to give the oath at graduation more than a dozen times.

Says Rohner, “Medicine is indeed a higher calling. We mend bodies and minds and good doctors take a whack at mending souls as well. Teachers do the same.”

ELINOR SPRING-MILLS, PHD



Among the first women to earn a doctorate from Harvard Medical School, Elinor Spring-Mills has been on the Upstate faculty since 1977. Named a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor in 1998, Dr. Spring-Mills is known for nurturing would-be doctors while imparting the basic value of the anatomical sciences through her teaching of cell biology, microscopic anatomy, and gross anatomy.

For 21 years, Spring-Mills was course director of the microscopic anatomy course, which became the first



Ramsay S. Farah, MD '95



Dennis Stelzner, PhD



IRWIN M. WEINER, MD '56



Internationally respected for his research into renal physiology, Irwin M. Weiner, MD '56, produced major discoveries regarding transport physiology, mechanism of action of diuretics, and secretion of drugs.

He also held important leadership positions during his Upstate tenure, a time of great change. Dr. Weiner joined the Upstate Department of Pharmacology in 1966 and served as department chair from 1968 to 1987, dually serving as Upstate's vice president for research from 1982 to 1988, when he was one of the architects of SUNY's Graduate Research Initiative. He served as dean of the College of Medicine and vice president for medical and biomedical education from 1987 to 1991, when he left to become dean of the College of Medicine for the SUNY Health Science Center in Brooklyn, otherwise known as Downstate.

"All of us chairs were sad to see him go," says Fred Davey, MD '64, former chair of the Department of Pathology. "He was a very fair and insightful leader. He had a deep long-term vision. Although his insight



Fred Davey, MD '64 Jose Jalife, MD Hal Wanamaker, MD '56

was keener and more perceptive than most, he never dictated to anyone. The department chairs always had the freedom to make their own decisions."

"We appreciated his decisiveness, calm within the storm and his dry sense of humor," adds Jose Jalife, MD, chair of the Department of Pharmacology.

Quiet and reserved, Weiner is best known for his exceptional mind. "Everyone who has known him throughout his career admired him greatly because he is so brilliant," says classmate Hal Wanamaker, MD '56.

Dr. Wanamaker recalls Gordon Moe, MD, former chair of the Department of Pharmacology, saying that while Weiner missed plenty of classes as a medical student, he never missed the latest movie and he always got an A+ on exams.

An active scholar even while an administrator, Weiner contributed more than 90 articles to professional journals or book chapters on renal physiology and pathology and pharmacology of therapeutics. He served on many professional boards and on the National Board of Medical Examiners from 1977 to 1982. From 1994 to 1997, he also served on the SUNY Research Foundation Board of Directors.

Weiner retired in 1996 and was awarded an honorary degree by Upstate Medical University in 2003.

WILLIAM J. WILLIAMS, MD



On the faculty since 1969, Bill Williams, MD, is known as the man with the bow tie and the gentle smile, as well as for his leadership at pivotal times during his tenure.

Dr. Williams was chairman of the Department of Medicine for 22 years. He served as interim dean of the College of Medicine twice, from 1991 to 1992 and from 2002 to 2004. In 2002, he was named a Distinguished Service Professor by the State University of New York.

Dr. Williams has been a leader in every phase of internal medicine over the course of his career," says David Duggan, MD '79, a former student and current chair of the Department of Medicine. "He is an outstanding physician, an excellent teacher who demands that his students think clearly and express themselves



David Duggan, MD '79



Lori J. Mosca, MD '84, HS '87

well, and a noted scholar who has authored one of the most successful textbooks in the history of all medicine."

Indeed, Williams, a specialist in hematology with a lifelong interest in research, is perhaps best known by those outside Upstate for editing what has served as the standard textbook in hematology at North American Medical schools for the last three decades. First published as *Hematology* in 1972, it was renamed *Williams' Manual of Hematology* in his honor with the 2003 edition.

At Upstate, Williams is known for providing a sound foundation in basic science, as well as for teaching the "intangibles."

"Just because someone knows how physically to take care of a patient doesn't mean they will automatically have a good doctor-patient relationship," he says. "Some of this is instinctual, but it also must be taught and explained to students—we can't just expect they will pick it up by observing."

That caring spirit is more than evident. "Dr. Williams is genuinely proud of his students and trainees with a fatherly pride that I have not seen the likes of in all of medicine or science," says Lori J. Mosca, MD '84, HS '87.

"I could not believe how much he knew about each one of us on his team. He happened to be in Hawaii when the Ironman competition was going on, remembered that I was a triathlete, and brought me back a T-shirt. Who would ever think that the chairman of a department would do something like that?"



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can help Upstate Medical University bring our academic teaching facilities into the 21st century with a gift to the Academic Building classroom naming campaign. You can contribute to the overall effort to honor some of Upstate's most revered teachers or earmark your gift toward a specific classroom. Use the wallet envelope enclosed in this issue, or mail your check to: The Academic Building Campaign, Upstate Medical Alumni Association, 155 Elizabeth Blackwell St., Syracuse, NY 13210. For more information contact Lori Murphy at 315/464-4361 or murphyL@upstate.edu